

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US, CASC, BENC, OTRA, EGEN

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNALAFFAIRS GARBA VISIT TO
WASHINGTON

1. VISIT OF EXTERNAL COMMISSIONER GARBA TO WASHINGTON WENT WELL AND WAS MARKED BY CORDIALITY ON BOTH SIDES. GARBA ARRIVED AFTERNOON OF JULY 29 FROM GERMANY VIA LONDON. JULY 30 HE HAD BREAKFAST WITH CONGRESSMAN ANDREW YOUNG, CALLED ON SENATOR CLARK DURING THE MORNING, HOSTED A PRIVATE LUNCH, CALLED ON THE SECRETARY, AND HOSTED A RECEPTION AT THE NIGERIAN RESIDENCE THAT EVENING. HE LEFT WASHINGTON FOR LONDON MID-DAY JULY 31 AND WAS ACCOMPANIED TO DULLES BY AMBASSADOR BLACK, THE NEW CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IS COVERED IN A SEPARATE CABLE. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAD WITH HIM DURING HIS VISIT.

2. CONSULAR PROBLEMS: WE RAISED THE DIFFICULTY WE HAVE
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HAD IN OBTAINING ACCESS TO US CITIZENS DETAINED BY

NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES. GARBA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM BUT THOUGHT THE ONLY MATTER CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING WAS THE RETENTION OF PROUTY'S PASSPORT BY THE NIGERIAN POLICE. ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT REMEMBER PROUTY'S NAME, HE DID SAY THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN RAISED WITH HIM BY

CROSBY SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT LAGOS AND THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT ON HIS RETURN. AS FOR GUTHRIE AND SPRIGGS, GARBA COMMENTED THAT CASE NOW BEFORE THE COURTS AND FMG THEREFORE POWERLESS TO INFLUENCE OUTCOME.

3. DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL: GARBA SAID THAT THE BAN WOULD BE LIFTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHEN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE NIGERIAN INTERNAL SECURITY APPARATUS IS COMPLETED. HE SAID THAT MEA WAS OPPOSED TO THE BAN, IN PART BECAUSE IT BELIEVED PERMISSION COULD BE WITHDRAWN FOR NIGERIAN EMBASSY STAFF TO TRAVEL IN THEIR COUNTRIES. WE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PERMISSION GIVEN KOTT TO CARRY OUT HIS FAMILIARIZATION TRAVEL.

4. INDIGENIZATION: WE ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS WITH REGARD TO INDIGENIZATION. HE SAID THAT THE PACE OF INDIGENIZATION WAS SPEEDED UP IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING TO RESORT TO MORE DRACONIAN MEASURES LATER ON. HE SAID THAT INDIGENIZATION IS NOT A MOVE AGAINST EXPATRIATE MANAGEMENT. INDEED THE FMG HOPED THAT MANAGEMENT WOULD CONTINUE AS AT PRESENT, ALBEIT UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP. NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT PRESENT OWNERS WOULD NECESSARILY LOSE CONTROL OF THE ENTERPRISE. WE COMMENTED THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO HEAR THE FMG WAS APPROACHING THE PROBLEMS THAT THE NEW DECREE WOULD CAUSE IN A PRAGMATIC AND PRACTICAL SPIRIT. GARBA AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THE FMG.

5. NUCLEAR REACTOR AND VISIT TO GERMANY: GARBA TOLD SECRETARY THAT HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT FMG IS SEEKING TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR POWER STATION FROM GERMANY. WE TOLD HIM LATER THAT WE THOUGHT IT INEVITABLE THAT US FIRMS WOULD SEEK TO BID ON THE NIGERIAN REACTOR. GARBA SAID NIGERIA WELCOMES SUCH COMPETITION. HE COMMENTED THAT NIGERIA WAS VERY SHORT OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, AND SAID THAT ITS FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE EDUCATION OF NUCLEAR

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TECHNICIANS. WHEN WE ASKED GARBA ABOUT GERMAN PRESS REPORTS OF LAST WEEK'S OFFICIAL VISIT BY CHIEF OF STAFF YAR'ADUA, INCLUDING REFERENCES TO THE NIGERIANS' INTENTION TO BUY A NUCLEAR REACTOR, GARBA SAID THAT HE AND YAR'ADUA HAD GONE TO GERMANY TOGETHER AND THAT GARBA HAD COME HERE FROM THERE. FYI. MEPD ALERTED BY THE REPORTS FROM GERMANY AND IS INFORMING US FIRMS OF THE NIGERIANS' INTENTIONS. APPARENTLY, NUCLEAR POWER IS NEEDED FOR THE IRON

AND STEEL PROJECT BECAUSE NATURAL GAS ALLOCATED TO OTHER USES. END FYI.

6. KOREA: WE NOTED THAT NIGERIA HAD RECENTLY RECOGNIZED NORTH KOREA AND SUGGESTED THAT NIGERIA MIGHT BALANCE THIS RECOGNITION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. GARBA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF

OUR VIEWS ON THE KOREA QUESTION AND SAID HE WOULD "LOOK INTO" THE QUESTION OF NIGERIAN RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON HIS RETURN.

7. PUERTO RICO: WE SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY THE US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND SAID THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE RAISED AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. GARBA SAID HE AGREED WITH THE US POSITION, AND THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON ACTIVE NIGERIAN SUPPORT ON THIS MATTER.

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